

ER: 61-1914/a

30 MAR 1961

Vice Admiral John F. Shafroth  
Naval Historical Foundation  
c/o Navy Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Shafroth:

Thank you for your letter of March 8 describing the work of the Naval Historical Foundation and inviting me to become a member.

Since I have for years had an interest in Naval history, I have long been aware of the Foundation and its interesting historical work directed at an important area of our nation's finest traditions. I would consider it an honor and a privilege to be a member of your worthy organization and accept your kind invitation with pleasure. I enclose herewith my application for an active membership and my check for \$5.00 covering annual dues.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Enclosure

O/DCI, [ ] /nhh

Rewritten: O/DCI, [ ] vgl 29 Mar 61

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

As you requested, I spoke to [ ] about the attached correspondence inviting you to join the Naval Historical Foundation. [ ] suggested a bit of re-slanting of the letter prepared by [ ] if you desire to decline and I have re-written that letter accordingly.

On the other hand, [ ] pointed out that if you wished to join the Foundation, he was sure you would not incur any obligations on your time by so doing. He pointed out that the only connotation to be read into your membership in the Naval Historical Foundation is an expression by you of an interest in Naval history.

I attach two letters for you to chose from - one regretting and the other accepting with pleasure.

(DATE)  
FMC

29 March 1961

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24 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. RECOMMEND that you decline the attached invitation to join the Naval Historical Foundation. (A suggested reply for your signature is also attached.) The Foundation is one of a good number of historical and patriotic societies devoted to the traditions of the armed forces. This one is primarily concerned with preserving the museum adjoining the Decatur House off Lafayette Square. It has a distinguished board of U.S. naval officers, including [redacted] of the Board of National Estimates. From an Agency viewpoint, however, I doubt whether the Foundation has enough interest for you to lend your name to it.

STAT

[redacted]  
Acting Assistant to the Director

STAT

Executive Registry  
65-199-1

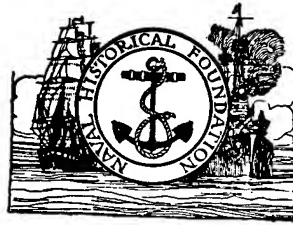
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NAVAL HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
C/O NAVY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 8, 1961

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The Honorable Allen Dulles  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

President John F. Kennedy has been a member of the Naval Historical Foundation since 1951. Many distinguished civilians and active, retired and reserve officers of the Armed Services are members of this non-profit Foundation which has patriotic, educational, literary and historical objectives.

More specifically, the Foundation collects and preserves documents, pictures and relics pertaining to the Navy and Merchant Marine, and presents to the public information respecting their great history, traditions, and meaning of the sea to the destiny of the United States.

These objectives are accomplished through the operation of the Truxtun-Decatur Naval Museum, through historical lectures by eminent officers and historians, and through the reproduction of rare documents and prints as available funds permit.

If you believe in these objectives, as I am sure you do, you are eligible to join the Naval Historical Foundation, and I extend to you a cordial invitation to do so, as an Active, Sustaining, Fellowship or Life Member.

I am enclosing a leaflet giving a more detailed description of the Foundation, and an application for membership.

Very sincerely,

*John F. Shafroth*

John F. Shafroth  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy (Retired)  
President

MAR 20 1961

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# THE NAVAL HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

*By Circumquest Commodore Dudley W. Knox, USN, RJD.*

To be hissed in the streets as a pirate was apt to be the fate of early circumnavigators and other seamen upon returning to home ports with deeply-laden ships. Yet how were mere landlubbers, then as now, to understand the ways and meaning of the sea? How could they know the color of blue water, the savagery of heavy seas, or that there was "no law around the Horn," that armament makes for safe voyages and stable commerce, that the shuttles of ships weave a fabric of prosperity ashore.

Then as now, those who dwell on land have difficulty in understanding the world of the high seas and in appreciating the profound influence of affairs on salt water upon their own welfare. The more they are enlightened on this score the better it is for their individual good as well as for the country of which they are citizens.

To clarify the significance of sea power—including all of its merchant and naval components—for the benefit of the general public is a task to which the Naval Historical Foundation has set itself, a task which it assumes will find favor with seafarers generally. The best tool for this purpose we deem to be history. As Patrick Henry once said many decades ago, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

Thus the Naval Historical Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the Nation's rich heritage

of maritime history and tradition. Incorporated in 1926, it is a private, non-profit, self-supporting, non-governmental organization.

In accordance with its educational and inspirational aims the Foundation established, and now operates a maritime museum at 1610 "H" Street, in Washington, D. C., adjoining historic "Decatur House." Here historical exhibitions are devoted to sea power in all its aspects—Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, etc. The displays endeavor to interpret and clarify past events. By periodic changes in exhibition themes, the broad scope of sea power's national significance may be embraced.

Envisioned are such matters as sea power's vital part in the Country's growth and security; in its unrivalled economic development and prosperity; in its cultural and political progress; in its relative freedom from foreign aggression, in its gratifying leadership towards world peace. The public should be benefitted by unlocking the lessons of history for guidance in the present and future.

Since opening the Museum in May, 1950 there have been exhibitions on Commodores Truxtun and Decatur and the Navy of their time; Ship models, History of the Marine Corps, Sea Power and early American History, Naval Aviation, Coast Guard, American Submarines, in action, Our Gallant Merchant Marine, and Commodore Perry's Opening of Japan.

The Foundation also diffuses knowledge of American sea power

by sponsoring periodic lectures by well-known authorities. Recent topics have been "The Battle of Midway," "The Battle for Leyte Gulf," "U. S. Submarine Operations during World War II," "Marine Corps Operations in Korea," "German Naval Strategy in World War II," "The Merchant Marine" and "The Conquest of the Solomons."

In addition, the Foundation publishes historical manuscripts and pictures. Among those already brought out are a facsimile of Paul Jones' "broadside" recruiting poster of 1777 calling for men to join the *Ranger*; a reproduction of a rare French print showing the hopeless position of Cornwallis at Yorktown after the French Fleet took control of the Capes; a facsimile of the Regulations of the Navy of the United Colonies, 1775; a History of the U. S. Revenue Marine Service; a book, "Admiral Dewey and the Manila Campaign," from the manuscript prepared under Dewey's own direction; a facsimile of the rare Burgis print of the first American lighthouse at Boston.

Related to the foregoing functions is that of collecting historical materials—manuscripts, pictures, books and objects. Large quantities have been accumulated, almost wholly gifts. In order to facilitate the needs of scholars and research workers, the Foundation's extensive collections of manuscripts have been placed on long-term loan with the Library of Congress. There they get the best of care and servicing, and the researcher



*Commodore  
John Paul*

*Jones  
Bust by  
Houdon*

*Gift of  
Mrs.  
George  
Nicholls*

*(Below)  
Entrance  
Truxton  
Decatur  
House*

*U. S.  
Naval  
Museum  
at  
Extreme  
Right*



1818 Decatur House 1941

is aided by their close juxtaposition with the Library of Congress' own very numerous naval manuscripts.

Like its other activities, the Foundation's collecting function complements without generally duplicating similar official efforts. It specializes in spheres, and acts in ways not freely available to Federal agencies. The manuscripts, for example are largely in the semi-official fringe, shedding light upon, but not regularly a part of official archives. However, in early periods, before well systematized regulations were in force, many documents now regarded as strictly official were allowed to remain in private hands. Numbers of these have been and are being collected by the Foundation.

Recently the Foundation, jointly with the Army and Navy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, placed a bronze commemorative tablet on the cottage in Scotland where Commodore John Paul Jones was born. Appropriate public ceremonies were held. Presentation was made on behalf of the two Societies by Admiral Jerauld Wright, U. S. Navy, Commanding American Naval Forces in Europe. The plaque was received on behalf of the people of Scotland by The Right Honorable, the Earl of Home, Minister of State for Scotland. The American Ambassador made the principal address and high British officials were in attendance.

The Naval Historical Foundation receives its financial support principally from a dues-paying membership. These resources are supplemented by income from trust funds and from irregular contributions by public spirited individuals and corporations. Such gifts are tax free. Currently the society is seeking to enlarge both its membership and its invested trust funds, in order to balance its budget, enlarge its effort in historic maritime publications, and increase the value of the museum. Larger funds will mean greater accomplishment in the high purposes of education and inspiration.

No officer of the Foundation receives any compensation for his services, which are entirely voluntary.